

House Republican Press Release

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Legislature Moves to Support Groton Sub Base



Williams and Berger Vote for Aggressive Investment to Save Naval Installation

HARTFORD -State Representatives Sean Williams (R-Watertown) and State Representative Jeffrey Berger (D-Waterbury) today supported a measure that would invest heavily and aggressively in the future of the United States Navy's submarine base in Groton. The Pentagon recently placed the base in Groton on a list of potential base closures.

The bill provides \$ 10 million in bond proceeds for improving the infrastructure at the United States Naval Submarine Base-New London in Groton to support long-term, ongoing naval operations. The proceeds come from previously authorized Manufacturing Assistance Act (MAA) bonds, which are used to finance industrial parks, facility expansions, and other large-scale development projects. The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) must grant the funds to the Navy or to towns, businesses, or other organizations eligible for MAA funding.

The bill also requires \$ 1 million from the proceeds of previously authorized MAA bond funds to help certain types manufacturers adopt new production technologies and techniques. DECD must grant the funds to the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology (CCAT) for this purpose. CCAT is a federally funded public-private partnership that helps universities, industries, and government agencies find ways to collaborate on developing new technologies.

Under the provisions of the bill, CCAT must target small- and medium-sized manufacturers who are at risk of losing contracts with larger defense manufacturers for supplying parts and services. It must do this by establishing and operating a center that helps suppliers keep up with their customers' changing needs and demands. The center must train suppliers, assist them at their worksites, and provide facilities and equipment for them. CCAT must run the center in collaboration with other state and national organizations.

“The Connecticut Legislature, in a bold and aggressive move and in a bi-partisan manner has invested \$10 million through DECD to send a message to Washington that we support the United States Naval Sub Base-New London in Groton,” said **Representative**

Berger. “Twenty-two hundred manufacturing sub contractors, by our initial investment, will now stimulate a \$2.5 million industry for Connecticut.”

“This is a tremendous effort on behalf of the General Assembly which not only effects the Naval Base and those who are employed there, but directly impacts the economy and livelihood of every resident of Connecticut,” said **Representative Williams**. “This says to Washington, and to the U.S. Department of Defense, that we support our sub base, the sailors, soldiers and workers who operate it, as well as the industry it is tied in with. We are far from giving up on this base.”

The measure was passed by both the Senate and the House today, and was immediately transmitted to the Governor for her signature.